

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James E. Risch
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Secretary Blinken, Secretary Austin, Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch,

The Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden have announced their intention to apply for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We urge the Administration and United States Senate to work together and with our NATO Allies to advance immediately the accession protocols authorizing NATO membership for Finland and Sweden.

Both Finland and Sweden have advanced economies and strong democratic institutions that align with the founding values enshrined in the Washington Treaty. Both nations are members of NATO's Partnership for Peace and are Enhanced Opportunity Partners. Finland and Sweden have well-trained armed forces, sophisticated modern weapon systems, and have committed to allocating two percent of GDP to defense spending. They have participated in numerous NATO-led operations, including in Afghanistan and the Balkans, and regularly conduct exercises with NATO. As such, their forces are highly interoperable with other members and the United States. Allowing these nations to join would strengthen NATO's deterrence across the Arctic, Nordic, and Baltic regions.

The Russian Federation's unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine, an independent, peaceful, and democratic country, demonstrates the need for effective deterrence. Additionally, an increasingly aggressive posture from Russia toward both countries make expedited action by the Administration and consent to ratification of the accession protocols by the Senate an imperative. Recently, Russian operatives have initiated cyber-attacks on Finnish government sites, Russian manned military aircraft have violated Finnish sovereign airspace, and suspected Russian drones have been observed in Swedish restricted areas, to include nuclear power plants and the royal palace. As members of NATO, Finland and Sweden, would enhance the military capabilities of the alliance and serve to increase the deterrent effect of the alliance against an increasingly aggressive Russia.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and urge you to advance the NATO accession of Finland and Sweden as expeditiously as possible. Their membership would strengthen NATO deterrence of Russia and U.S. national security.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Chair
House Foreign Affairs
Committee



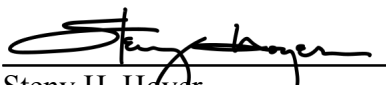
Michael T. McCaul
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs
Committee



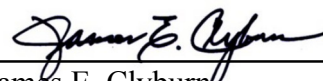
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



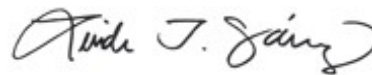
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



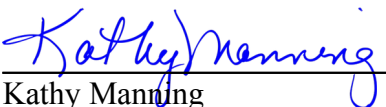
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Austin Scott (GA-08)
Member of Congress



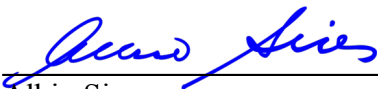
David Scott
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



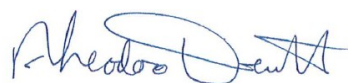
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



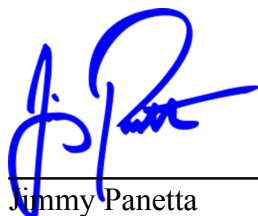
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



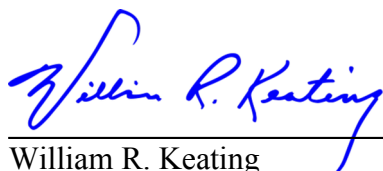
Young Kim
Member of Congress



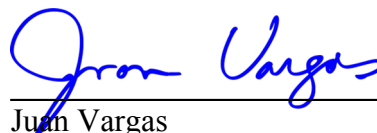
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



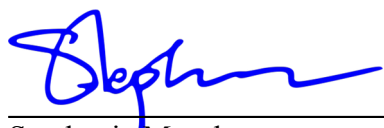
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress




David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



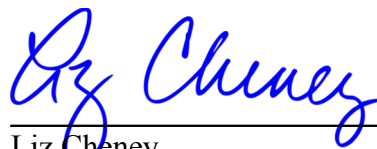
Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



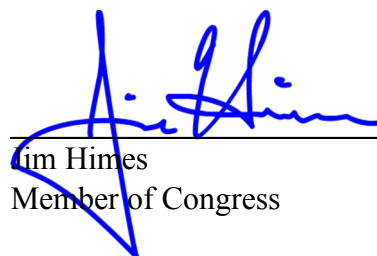
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney
Member of Congress




SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



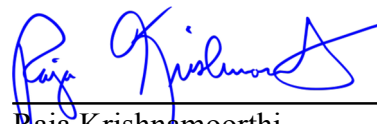
André Carson
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



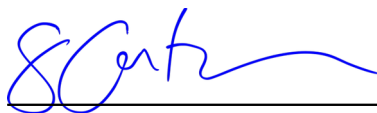
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



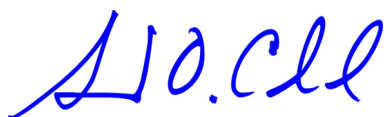
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress




Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



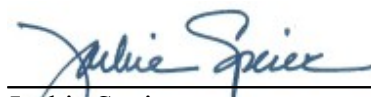
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



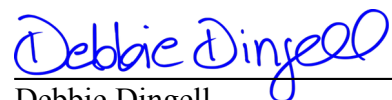
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress




Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



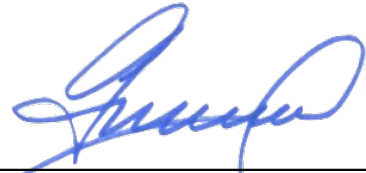
Peter Meijer M.C.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



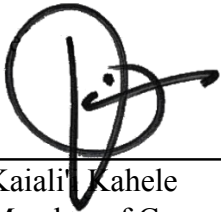
Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



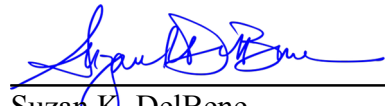
Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Kaiulani Kahele
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



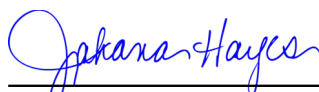
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



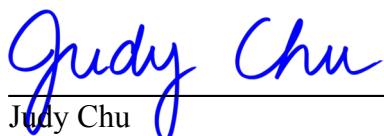
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



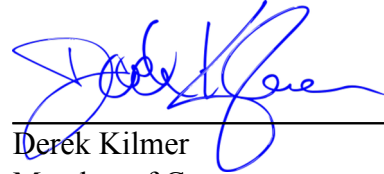
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



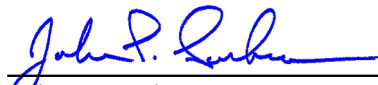
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



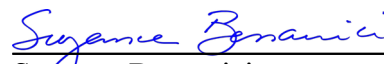
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



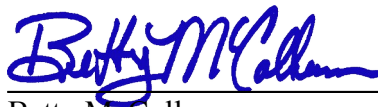
Troy Carter
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress




Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



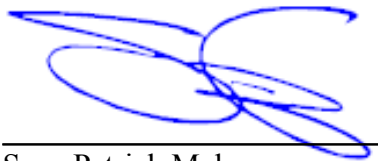
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



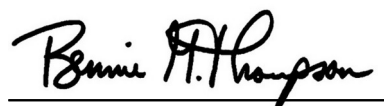
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



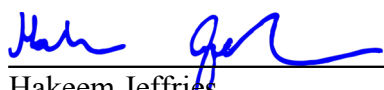
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



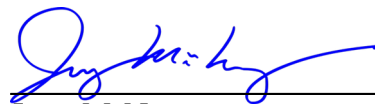
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



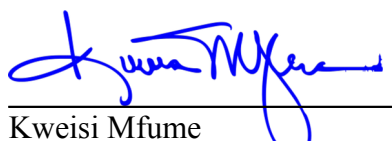
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



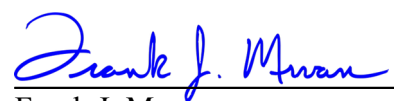
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress




Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



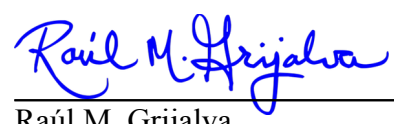
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress




Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress




Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



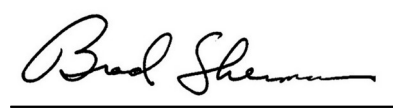
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress




Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress




Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



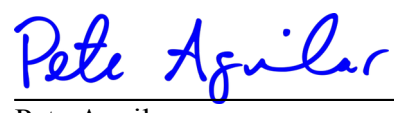
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



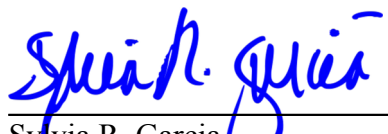
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



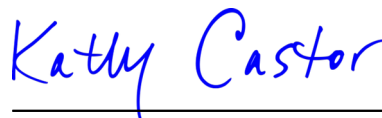
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



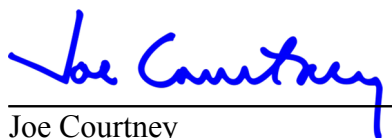
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



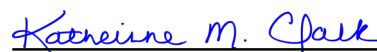
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



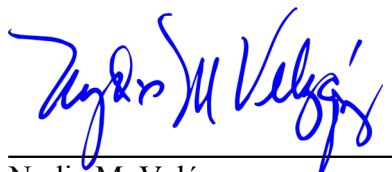
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



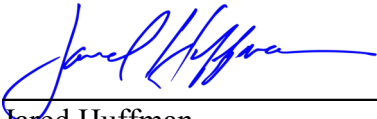
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress




Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



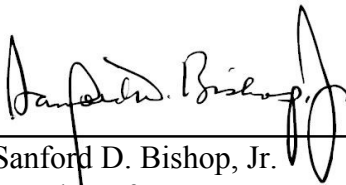
Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



French Hill
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Earl Blumenauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Earl" and last name "Blumenauer" clearly distinguishable.

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress